commission. The collections of 100 and 200 species are respectively prized at 15 florins and 30 florins; and we beg to observe, that to those who do not already possess the collections of Sieber, they are highly interesting, and the more so as the specimens are incomparably more beautiful and complete than the relics which are still on sale of Sieber's plants.

Professor Hochstetter,
Dr. Steudel.

Esslingen by Stuttgard, Jan. 1838.

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL NOTICES.

Icones Fungorum hucusque cognitorum. Auctore A. C. J. Corda. Pragæ, 1837.

Though the present work is not wholly destitute of the faults which are chargeable against the other mycologic labours of the author, it is one of very great importance. If his matter is not always correct, nor his views judicious, we find much that is at least original; and there are many observations and discoveries which throw quite a new light on several obscure branches of mycology. It would indeed be difficult to point out any work of the same size which contains so much of interest. The price too is extremely moderate; and as the specific and generic characters and references to the dissections are in Latin, though the remarks are in German, it is generally accessible to botanists. It is much to be desired that the author will meet with sufficient encouragement to enable him to continue a work which, from the style in which it is got up, must necessarily involve a considerably outlay, and even more brilliant discoveries may be confidently expected in other branches of the science. At present there are few good figures of the fruit-bearing organs of fungi; and, from our own experience, we can bear witness that much remains to be done. Mycologists have till lately been in possession of instruments which can show only a part of the structure, and many of the more minute species have been very imperfectly investigated, nor have the differences, which exist at different periods of growth, received sufficient attention. Indeed the fructification of the typical group of fungi has been altogether misunderstood.

Among the points of most interest, we shall note the following, taken in the order in which they occur.

The author asserts that *Trichothecium roseum* is a parasite on hyphomycetous fungi, or *Mycelia*. *Trichothecium domesticum* is said to occur on the hyphasma of *Mucor Mucedo*. This hint is well worth

following up. We have long since been convinced that the commonly received notions of the structure in this genus are incorrect, and the published figures very insufficient. We cannot however agree, even if the author is correct (which is highly probable), that it has any affinity with *Puccinia*, much less that it belongs to that genus, with which he unites it.

To the correctness of the next point, viz. that *Sepedonium roseum* accompanies *Verticillum cylindrospora*, Corda, we can ourselves bear testimony. Whether it be a parasite or no demands further inquiry.

There are figures of some very interesting new species of *Torula*, and of some extraordinary productions nearly related to that genus.

Helicomyces is asserted to be parasitic on the hairs of *Sphæria exilis, Dematia, Helminthosporia*, &c., and destitute of any proper stroma. *Helicotrichum*, Nees, therefore, is, contrary to the opinion of Fries, a distinct genus.

Puccinia Bullaria is figured as a *Phragmotrichum*. If the analysis is correct, the species figured must be quite different from what we have now before us, which does not differ from other *Pucciniæ*, except in being more closely invested with the epidermis.

Under *Helminthosporium apiculatum*, a highly interesting analysis of the genus is given. The spore consists, 1st, of an outer light skin; 2nd, of an inner, hard, coloured, horny skin, which incloses a third, which, like the first, is light-coloured. Within this are the septa, which have a proper membrane, and are not united at all to the third coat, or connected with it. They inclose large drops of oil, with which they are also surrounded. The apiculus is formed of a proper skin, and merely adheres to the spore, without being clothed with any of its coats. The drops of oil are what are sometimes called sporidiola, and they require further investigation. We do not deny that the cells sometimes contain drops of an oily fluid, but that the so-called oil-drops are sometimes true reproductive bodies is quite certain. The distinction between the genera *Doratomyces* and *Stysanos* is well worth attending to, as it throws light upon a matter at present somewhat obscure. Some of the latter will probably be found to be mere anamorphoses of *Aspergilli*.

Chordostylum, Tode, an ill-understood genus, is shown to be allied to *Pilobolus*. The flocci of *Trichiæ* are shown to be spiral vessels, like the elaters of *Jungermannia*. The genus *Chætomium* is figured as ascigerous, a most interesting fact, which we can ourselves confirm. The matter, however, requires further attention. *Myxascia*, Berk., is probably only a correctly observed *Chætomium*.

The sporidia of *Chætomium murorum* have a chink on one side, like those of the *Sphæria pedunculata*, Dick., and *S. hippotrichioides*, Sow.

The true structure of *Sphæronema* is delineated in a species which grows upon the buds of *Dahlias*, which is almost identical with *S. blepharistoma*, figured in Mag. Bot. and Zool., vol. i.

The reproductive bodies of *Tuber* are beautifully figured, under *Tuber fuscum*. In the common truffle we find them just the same, and by no means such as represented by Turpin in his memoir on that genus.

The last illustration is perhaps the most important, being a complete confirmation of the views on the structure of hymenomycetous fungi, published in a late number of this journal*. It is most curious that Ascherson, Corda, Montague, Leveillè, Brogniart and Decaisne should almost at the same time have observed the true structure of the hymenium in typical fungi.

It will not be thought invidious, if after calling attention to so many points of interest, (and there are many which we have not noticed,) we point out a few matters which might mislead. The author is certainly too hasty in the proposing new species and genera: indeed, many of his species appear to be the conidia of other fungi, or anomalous forms of described species. *Bispora intermedia* appears to be a correctly drawn *Torula antennata*. *Halysium atrum* is *Spiloma melanopum*, E. B. t. 2358, which has been neglected by authors. Its nature is still doubtful. *Periconia byssoides* is either incorrectly drawn or is not the true plant of Nees, the flocci of which are articulated and the spores curiously granulated.

The species figured as *Stilba* appear to belong to other genera. *Stilbum crystallinum* is clearly *Aspergillus albus*, and *Stilbum vulgare* certainly not the true plant. *Stilbum nodosum* appears to be young *Aspergillus maximus*.

Other points might be noted, but we had rather again call the attention of our readers to the merits of the work, and recommend it very strongly to their patronage.

Commentationes de Leguminosarum Generibus. Auctore Georgio Bentham.

During an interesting and extensive tour lately made on the continent of Europe, our valued friend Mr. Bentham devoted his time, whether in the field or in the public and private museums, to the

* On the fructification of the Pileate and Clavate Tribes of Hymenomycetous Fungi, vol. i. p. 81.